

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

Disclosure Objections

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because claim 3. Claim 3 depends upon itself. It appears at this is a typographical error. The examiner will reject claim 3 as being dependent from claim 2.

Appropriate amendment has been requested above.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0030665 (hereinafter "Ano").

"To anticipate a claims, the reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." (Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) ¶ 2131.)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 14 of the present application include limitations not disclosed or taught by Ano. As a result, claims 1, 9, and 14 are patentable over Ano.

In particular, applicant's claims, as amended, include the limitation, or a limitation similar there to, of:

a wheel positioned horizontally relative to keyboard surface of a portable computer, wherein rotation of the wheel communicates user input to the computer, wherein rotation of the wheel provides variable input to an application being executed on the portable computer. (emphasis added). (Applicant's claim 1).

Ano, however, does not disclose nor suggest the limitation of the rotation of the wheel provides variable input to an application being executed on the portable computer as claimed by applicant. Therefore, in view of applicant's independent claims including limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by Ano, applicant's independent claims are patentable over Ano.

In addition, the remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims as discussed above, and therefore include similar limitations, and as a result are also patentable over Ano.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

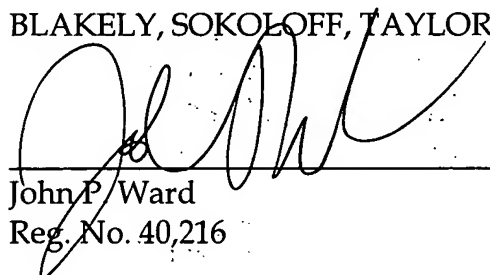
Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: _____

2/2/04



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